

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2963

To establish a youth mentoring program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 1997

Mr. ROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. HYDE, and Mr. CONYERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish a youth mentoring program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “JUMP Ahead Act of
5 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) millions of young people in America live in
9 areas in which drug use and violent and property
10 crimes are pervasive;

1 (2) unfortunately, many of these same young
2 people come from single parent homes, or from envi-
3 ronments in which there is no responsible, caring
4 adult supervision;

5 (3) all children and adolescents need caring
6 adults in their lives, and mentoring is an effective
7 way to fill this special need for at-risk children. The
8 special bond of commitment fostered by the mutual
9 respect inherent in effective mentoring can be the tie
10 that binds a young person to a better future;

11 (4) through a mentoring relationship, adult vol-
12 unteers and participating youth make a significant
13 commitment of time and energy to develop relation-
14 ships devoted to personal, academic, or career devel-
15 opment and social, artistic, or athletic growth;

16 (5) rigorous independent studies have confirmed
17 that effective mentoring programs can significantly
18 reduce and prevent the use of alcohol and drugs by
19 young people, improve school attendance and per-
20 formance, improve peer and family and peer rela-
21 tionships, and reduce violent behavior;

22 (6) since the inception of the Federal JUMP
23 program, dozens of innovative, effective mentoring
24 programs have received funding grants;

1 (7) unfortunately, despite the recent growth in
 2 public and private mentoring initiatives, it is re-
 3 ported that between 5,000,000 and 15,000,000 addi-
 4 tional children in the United States could benefit
 5 from being matched with a mentor; and

6 (8) although great strides have been made in
 7 reaching at-risk youth since the inception of the
 8 JUMP program, millions of vulnerable American
 9 children are not being reached, and without an in-
 10 creased commitment to connect these young people
 11 to responsible adult role models, our country risks
 12 losing an entire generation to drugs, crime, and un-
 13 productive lives.

14 **SEC. 3. JUVENILE MENTORING GRANTS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 288B of the Juvenile Jus-
 16 tice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.
 17 5667e–2) is amended—

18 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
 19 “The Administrator shall”;

20 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
 21 following:

22 “(2) are intended to achieve 1 or more of the
 23 following goals:

24 “(A) Discourage at-risk youth from—

25 “(i) using illegal drugs and alcohol;

1 “(ii) engaging in violence;

2 “(iii) using guns and other dangerous
3 weapons;

4 “(iv) engaging in other criminal and
5 antisocial behavior; and

6 “(v) becoming involved in gangs.

7 “(B) Promote personal and social respon-
8 sibility among at-risk youth.

9 “(C) Increase at-risk youth’s participation
10 in, and enhance the ability of those youth to
11 benefit from, elementary and secondary edu-
12 cation.

13 “(D) Encourage at-risk youth participation
14 in community service and community activities.

15 “(E) Provide general guidance to at-risk
16 youth.”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(b) AMOUNT AND DURATION.—Each grant under
19 this part shall be awarded in an amount not to exceed
20 a total of \$200,000 over a period of not more than 3 years.

21 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of
23 fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 to carry out this
24 part.”.

1 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Office
3 of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the De-
4 partment of Justice may make grants to national organi-
5 zations or agencies serving youth, in order to enable those
6 organizations or agencies—

7 (1) to conduct a multisite demonstration
8 project, involving between 5 and 10 project sites,
9 that—

10 (A) provides an opportunity to compare
11 various mentoring models for the purpose of
12 evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of
13 those models;

14 (B) allows for innovative programs de-
15 signed under the oversight of a national organi-
16 zation or agency serving youth, which programs
17 may include—

18 (i) technical assistance;

19 (ii) training; and

20 (iii) research and evaluation; and

21 (C) disseminates the results of such dem-
22 onstration project to allow for the determina-
23 tion of the best practices for various mentoring
24 programs;

25 (2) to develop and evaluate screening standards
26 for mentoring programs; and

1 (3) to develop and evaluate volunteer recruit-
2 ment techniques and activities for mentoring pro-
3 grams.

4 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of the
6 fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 to carry out this
7 section.

8 **SEC. 5. EVALUATIONS; REPORTS.**

9 (a) EVALUATIONS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
11 enter into a contract with an evaluating organization
12 that has demonstrated experience in conducting eval-
13 uations, for the conduct of an ongoing rigorous eval-
14 uation of the programs and activities assisted under
15 this Act or under section 228B of the Juvenile Jus-
16 tice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42
17 U.S.C. 5667e–2) (as amended by this Act).

18 (2) CRITERIA.—The Attorney General shall
19 establish a minimum criteria for evaluating the
20 programs and activities assisted under this Act or
21 under section 228B of the Juvenile Justice and
22 Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.
23 5667e–2) (as amended by this Act), which shall pro-
24 vide for a description of the implementation of the
25 program or activity, and the effect of the program

1 or activity on participants, schools, communities,
2 and youth served by the program or activity.

3 (3) MENTORING PROGRAM OF THE YEAR.—The
4 Attorney General shall, on an annual basis, based on
5 the most recent evaluation under this subsection and
6 such other criteria as the Attorney General shall es-
7 tablish by regulation—

8 (A) designate 1 program or activity as-
9 sisted under this Act as the “Juvenile
10 Mentoring Program of the Year”; and

11 (B) publish notice of such designation in
12 the Federal Register.

13 (b) REPORTS.—

14 (1) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Each entity receiving
15 a grant under this Act or under section 228B of the
16 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of
17 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5667e–2) (as amended by this Act)
18 shall submit to the evaluating organization entering
19 into the contract under subsection (a)(1), an annual
20 report regarding any program or activity assisted
21 under this Act or under section 228B of the Juve-
22 nile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974
23 (42 U.S.C. 5667e–2) (as amended by this Act).
24 Each report under this paragraph shall be submitted
25 at such time, in such a manner, and shall be accom-

1 panied by such information, as the evaluating orga-
2 nization may reasonably require.

3 (2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than
4 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
5 Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report
6 evaluating the effectiveness of grants awarded under
7 this Act and under section 228B of the Juvenile
8 Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42
9 U.S.C. 5667e–2) (as amended by this Act), in—

10 (A) reducing juvenile delinquency and gang
11 participation;

12 (B) reducing the school dropout rate; and

13 (C) improving academic performance of ju-
14 veniles.

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